Amendments to the Specification:

Please delete the paragraph heading SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION located on page 1, line 20 and insert the paragraph heading SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION on page 1, line 30.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 22, with the following amended paragraph:

Aspects of the present invention also relate to a method for managing electronic ~~message~~ messages comprising identifying an electronic message based on one or more sender-independent message-based rules and at least one of selecting and integrating the electronic message into a digest or sampling the electronic message.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 13, with the following amended paragraph:

Additionally, the systems and methods of this invention can be used in conjunction with co-pending application number 09/717,303 ~~Attorney Docket Nos.~~ ~~1508.003160~~ entitled "System and Method For Managing a Computer-Mediated Discussion Forum" and application number 09/717,298 ~~1508.003180~~ entitled "Systems and Methods for the Discovery and Presentation of Electronic Messages that are Related to an Electronic Message," filed herewith and incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 30 and continuing on to page 6, line 9, with the following amended paragraph:

Supplemental to specifying criteria for deciding when messages should be included in a digest, users can also specify characteristics of the digest itself. For example, a user may choose among different digest styles. Some digests may include attachments, while others may not. Some digests include the full text of each message, whereas other digests may include just summary information of the individual messages with, for example, links, such as URLs to the full text of each message. Alternatively, some digests might include simply the first nonquoted line from each sent message. Digests may vary in whether they present messages in increasing or decreasing chronological order. Using the digest tool according to this invention, users may choose ~~those~~ to create their own digests using the methods described herein, even for lists that offer digests, in order to receive the digest in the

user's preferred style. In addition, users can specify when and how often the digest should be received. For example, a user may choose to receive, for example, one set of messages in a daily digest at a predetermined time, and another set of messages in a weekly digest at another predetermined time.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 11, with the following amended paragraph:

The sampling tool according to this invention allows users to opt only to view representative messages from a stream of messages that meet a particular set of criteria, or rules. For some electronic messages, readers are not concerned with reading every single message that is sent. Instead, these readers may, for example, merely want to keep abreast of the general directions taken by the conversations in the electronic messages. For example, a user may be interested in peripherally monitoring developments in a particular community even if the user may not be particularly involved in that community. Additionally, monitoring can be applied to sets of messages that do not necessarily correspond to lists. For example, a user may want to only sample messages bearing a particular subject line, for example, to stay abreast of a thread without receiving every message in that particular thread.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 13, with the following amended paragraph:

As shown in FIG. 1, the electronic message management system [[is]] can be implemented either on a single program general purpose computer, or a separate program general purpose computer. However, the electronic message management system can also be implemented on a special purpose computer, a programmed microprocessor or microcontroller and peripheral integrated circuit element, an ASIC or other integrated circuit, a digital signal processor, a hardwired electronic or logic circuit such as a discrete element circuit, a programmable logic device such as a PLD, PLA, FPGA, PAL, or the like. In general, any device capable of implementing a finite state machine that in turn is capable of implementing the flowcharts illustrated in FIGS. 6-8 can be used to implement the electronic message management system according to this invention.